

NEW SLATE Region I

Prairie Educational Service Area (PESA)

Lead District: Poplar High School

Partner Districts: Bainville K-12, Colstrip Elementary, Frazer Elementary, Lindsay Elementary, Poplar Elementary, Terry K-12

Nonpublic Participant District: Lustre Christian High School

Abstract: Region I's NEW SLATE grant offers robust professional development which overcomes the geographic vastness of our region. The NEW SLATE grant utilizes a rich delivery system relying on face to face, online, or with a savvy blend of both, impact to seven high-need schools in remote eastern Montana.

The focus of this model is about pedagogy and integration of technology for teacher and student use to meet the standards as well as thoughtful review of student work and observation of participating classrooms. Within this professional learning culture participating teachers will understand the full meaning and impact of technology integration to support the teaching and learning process. Students involved will become technology literate and, in the process, become problem-solvers responsible and accountable for their success in the learning environment.

The incorporation of any emerging tool or technology into the classroom is only as successful as the teaching practice in which it is rooted. Acknowledging that many of our teachers are uncomfortable with basic computing, emerging technologies and lack confidence using technology in their classrooms, New SLATE provides the framework in which these obstacles can be overcome. Teachers will move from basic technology skills to curriculum imbedded integration. Instructional staff are mentored to differentiate learning, look at student work, align lessons with the Montana Content Standards, and then implement and reflect on the outcomes. This proven path for successful implementation generates technology leaders within each district while it creates dynamic, independent classroom teachers, and improves student academic achievement.

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